



February 21, 2008

Reply to the Attn: Office of Chief Counsel

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Counsel (Acting)

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the
STS-123 Launch Reception sponsored by Applied Geo Technologies

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend the STS-123 Launch Reception sponsored by Applied Geo Technologies, to be held at the Courtyard by Marriott, Cocoa Beach, Florida, on or about Sunday, March 9, 2008, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This event is to be held in conjunction with the launch of STS-123 at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of approximately 150 representatives of government, the aerospace industry and the community. Hot hors d'oeuvres will be served at a cost of approximately \$10 per person. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 635.204(g)(2). I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations.

Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect Applied Geo Technologies, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i), regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to the undersigned at 228-688-1587.


Marleen Phillips
Chief Counsel (Acting)